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of an annotated code. In short, it is not a treatise on the law of real property, and no amount of revision will make it one. It is a condensed digest, with the indispensable character which attaches to such an index or guide to the wilderness of precedents, but of no scientific value beyond the orderly presentation of unrelated facts. Such a book bears the same relation to a scientific treatment of a legal topic as Herbert Spencer's *Descriptive Sociology* sustains to the *Principles of Sociology*, or as the *Calendar of State Papers* bears to the English history of the period to which it relates.

It remains to be said that the work of annotation and revision could not have been better done—by any one who deemed it worth doing. It can hardly be called scholarly, but it is accurate, thorough and intelligent. Much of the author's "learning," historical and speculative, has been cut out, usually to the advantage of the work as a practitioner's hand-book, but to its detriment as a text-book for students. Some of the bad law has been eliminated, the citations have been sifted and, in general, the work "cleaned up." Its bulk has been considerably reduced (by about 400 pages), and the formidable list of authorities somewhat curtailed. In short, this revision is a thoroughly consistent piece of work—consistent, that is to say, with the character of the original work, as well as with the aim expressed by the author in his first preface, "to provide a safe and convenient book of reference to the lawyer"; but, as has been said before, it does nothing to realize his secondary aim of furnishing "an elementary treatise for the use of students." The realization of both these aims in one and the same work is by no means an impossible task, but it still awaits performance.

THE LAW OF VOID JUDICIAL SALES. By A. C. Freeman, St. Louis : Central Law Journal Company, 1902, pp. 14, 341.

This has been an excellent book from the first, and the present edition is an improvement upon its three predecessors. Not only are the latest decisions cited in the foot-notes, but their doctrines are incorporated in the text. When these necessitate a change of statement, the author does not hesitate to make it, with a frank confession of his error, if the new decisions appear to him sound, and with fearless and trenchant criticism if he deems them unsound.

The scope of the work is much wider than the general title given above would indicate. It includes the legal and equitable rights of purchasers at void execution and probate sales, as well as a full consideration of the constitutionality of special legislation validating void sales, and authorizing involuntary sales in the absence of judicial proceedings. Every branch of the subject is treated with care and ability, but the discussion of the constitutionality of validating legislation is especially fine. The conflicting decisions upon this important topic are presented with painstaking fulness and accuracy, their relative merits are pointed out, and then the true rule, as the author conceives it, is enunciated. No one can read the book without acquiring a knowledge of what the law is, in our various jurisdictions, and also of what, in the author's opinion, it should be. His attitude towards judicial authority is always deferential, but never servile.